
Pregnant and Parenting Adolescents Support Services

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Which counties will be considered “high risk” as identified in the [2011 Pregnant and Parenting Adolescent Support Services Needs Assessment](#)?

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| 1. Decatur | 11. Vigo |
| 2. Knox | 12. Dearborn |
| 3. Lake | 13. Putnam |
| 4. Montgomery | 14. Fayette |
| 5. La Porte | 15. Lawrence |
| 6. Fountain | 16. Clay |
| 7. Grant | 17. Marion |
| 8. Newton | 18. Jennings |
| 9. Vanderburgh | 19. Allen |
| 10. Scott | 20. Starke |

2. Will an additional evaluation weight be assigned to those applicants who are proposing to serve identified “high risk” counties?

Those applicants that serve one or more of the top 20 counties identified in the [2011 Pregnant and Parenting Adolescent Support Services Needs Assessment](#) will be assigned additional evaluation weight.

3. How much additional weight will be assigned to those applicants who are proposing to serve “high risk” counties?

Within the scoring tool the "Target Priority Population" section is worth a maximum of 10 points. The criteria Schedule adjustments for this area include serving a high-risk county and serving a high-risk population. Applicants that serve a high-risk county will automatically receive 5 points

in evaluation weight. Applicants can then earn an additional 5 points for a detailed description of how populations identified as high risk within the MCH Needs Assessment will be served.

4. Can my application still be considered for funding if I am not proposing to serve “high risk” counties?

Applicants will be considered compliant with eligibility requirements even if the proposed area to be served with requested PPASS grant funds is **NOT** included in the top 20 high-risk counties as identified within the MCH Needs Assessment. Regardless of whether participants to be served are primarily residents of or seeking services within the high-risk counties as identified by the MCH Needs Assessment, applicants must describe adequately the need for serving populations in each chosen community. Finally, please note that only applications purposing to serve pregnant and parenting adolescents within the high-risk counties as identified by the MCH Needs Assessment will receive additional weight in the scoring process.

5. Can an applicant agency or organization use funds to supplement an existing program and can funds be used to serve teens that are already being served with preexisting funds?

The applicant agency is able to request Pregnant and Parenting Adolescents Support Services (PPASS) grant funds to achieve the four required PPASS Priority Areas as well as the Additional PPASS Priority Areas.

Should the applicant’s request for funds be utilized to supplement existing programs, the applicant agency must ensure that PPASS grant funding is neither co-mingled, nor supplanting existing federal or federal pass-through funds. That is, for example, if the applicant agency chooses to supplement an existing federally-funded program, such as “Program X”, the applicant agency will be responsible for ensuring that “Program X” funding is accounted for separately than PPASS funds. The applicant agency and its partners are able to use the PPASS funds to serve the same teens that are enrolled in “Program X”; however, it is strongly encouraged that applicants request PPASS funds to add additional components to the services already provided through currently funded programs.

For example, if you are already providing services “to increase healthy birth outcomes,” then PPASS funds should be used to add program components that will address the other three required priority areas (i.e. decreasing repeat pregnancies, decreasing high school dropout rates, building infrastructure) and at least one of the additional priority areas.

6. How much money can my agency/organization apply for to meet the objectives?

Applicants should describe thoroughly the scope of the proposed project and justify the size of the budget request for each category of allowable services, for a total of no more than \$600,000 per fiscal year.

7. Does the required “description of the plan for protection of clients/project participants” on page 16 of the RFP pertain only to confidentiality of clients/participants information, or should it also include a plan for the protection of clients at risk for domestic abuse?

Applicants should provide a detailed plan of how they will ensure the protection of client/project participants' personal information. This could include de-identifying client/project participants' information, locking up client/project participant files, etc.

If domestic violence is addressed by the applicant organization/program or one of the collaborating partners, then the applicant organization should include a brief description of how client/project participants are currently or will be protected (i.e. an alarm system is in place, a police officer or guard is present, etc). Applicants are also encouraged to include any future plans to ensure the safety and well being of clients/project participants that may be experiencing domestic abuse.

If the applicant organization is funded and ISDH's MCH division does not feel safety measures are adequate, then ISDH may ask that the applicant organization consider additional measures to modify the safety plan.

8. If an applicant uses an evidence-based model that has already been evaluated and supported to be effective, then does the organization has to conduct a quasi-experimental study to support the program's effectiveness?

Applicant organizations utilizing an evidence-based model do not have to conduct a quasi-experimental study to support the program's effectiveness. However, applicants with strong evaluation plans will receive additional evaluation weight as noted in the scoring tool located on page 44 of the RFP.

9. What is the availability of PPASS funding?

All grant awards will be contingent upon availability of federal funding. Grant awards will not exceed one year (12 months). At the end of the grant period, contingent upon continued federal funding, ISDH will make available funds for continuation of grant projects for one additional year.

Please note that ISDH has no guarantee of continued federal funding, including PPASS funding. ISDH will know at the beginning of each federal fiscal year if federal appropriations have allowed for continued funding.

10. If a community level needs assessment has already been conducted, but not specifically for the proposed evidence based practice, then does a new needs assessment need to be conducted specifically for the proposed evidence based practice?

If an applicant organization has completed a previous community level needs assessment and all needed information has been generated from it, then the applicant organization does not need to conduct an additional needs assessment specifically for the evidenced based practice. With respect to the primary purpose and goals of the grant program, applicants should ensure that their community level needs assessment provides them data to include the following in their Statement of Need:

- Describe and justify the *population* of focus (demographic information on the population of focus, such as race, ethnicity, age, socioeconomic status, geography must be provided).
- Describe and justify the *geographic area(s)* to be served.

- Use data to describe the need and extent of the need (e.g. current prevalence or incidence rates) for the population(s) of focus.
- Describe resources currently available to pregnant and parenting teens and identify gaps in service

Applicants should also ensure that the following is included in their Statement of Need:

- Sufficient information on how the data were collected so reviewers can assess the reliability and validity of the data.
- Cite all references (do not include copies of sources).
- Describe how the needs were identified.

11. Do collaborative partnerships need to be finalized before the applicant organization's proposal is submitted?

- Applicant organizations **must** form traditional and nontraditional collaborations between agencies and organizations
- Applicant organizations and their partnering organizations **must** have an agreement in place that if the applicant organization is funded, then the organizations will partner to provide services
- Applicant organizations are *highly encouraged* to include letters of support from potential collaborating partners as **indication** that collaborative partnerships will be formed if funding is received.

12. How many applicants does ISDH's MCH division plan to fund with PPASS funding?

ISDH's MCH division recommends that applicant agencies budget for no more than \$600,000 per year. While a finalized number of awardees have yet to be determined, ISDH anticipates that the number of grants awarded will be reflective of:

- (1) Funding availability for sub-recipient awards
- (2) Program budget requests for awarded applicants.

